Typhoon Otto (04W)

Typhoon (TY) Otto (04W) formed over extremely warm ocean temperatures (¿ 30 degrees C) east of Luzon. This cyclone developed from a persistent mesoscale convective complex to a 100 kt typhoon during its relatively straight 4-day northwestward track. TY Otto tracked across Taiwan, then moved into southeastern China causing widespread flooding in Fukien Province.

Based on 011411Z August ERS-2 satellite scatterometer data and satellite imagery showing increased deep convection, JTWC issued the first warning at 020300Z August. Intensification to tropical storm occurred twelve hours later as the cyclone began to accelerate and move northwestward toward Taiwan in response to steering flow from the mid-tropospheric subtropical ridge. Minimal typhoon intensity was reached at 031200Z August.

TY Otto reached a maximum intensity of 100 kt on 040000Z August just prior to making landfall on the southeastern coast of Taiwan. The island's rugged, mountainous terrain temporarily lowered the cyclone's maximum sustained winds to 60 kt, but TY Otto reintensified to minimal typhoon intensity over the Taiwan Strait and continued to move northwestward. It then made a second landfall near the city of Fuzhou in southeastern China at 042000Z August, where the associated heavy rainfall contributed to widespread flooding in Fukien Province. Maximum sustained winds were estimated at 50 kt when JTWC issued its thirteenth and final warning at 050300Z August 1998.

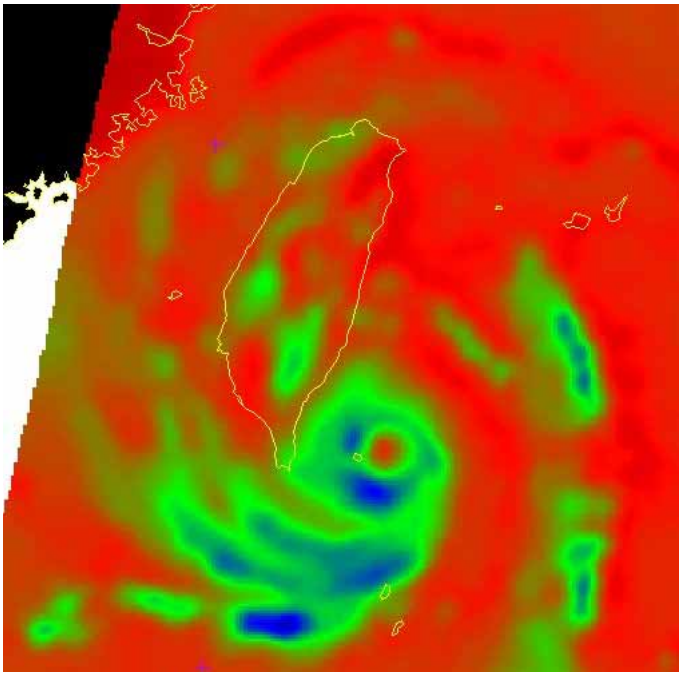


Figure 3-04-1. DMSP 040044Z August microwave image of Typhoon Otto just prior to landfall in southeastern Taiwan.

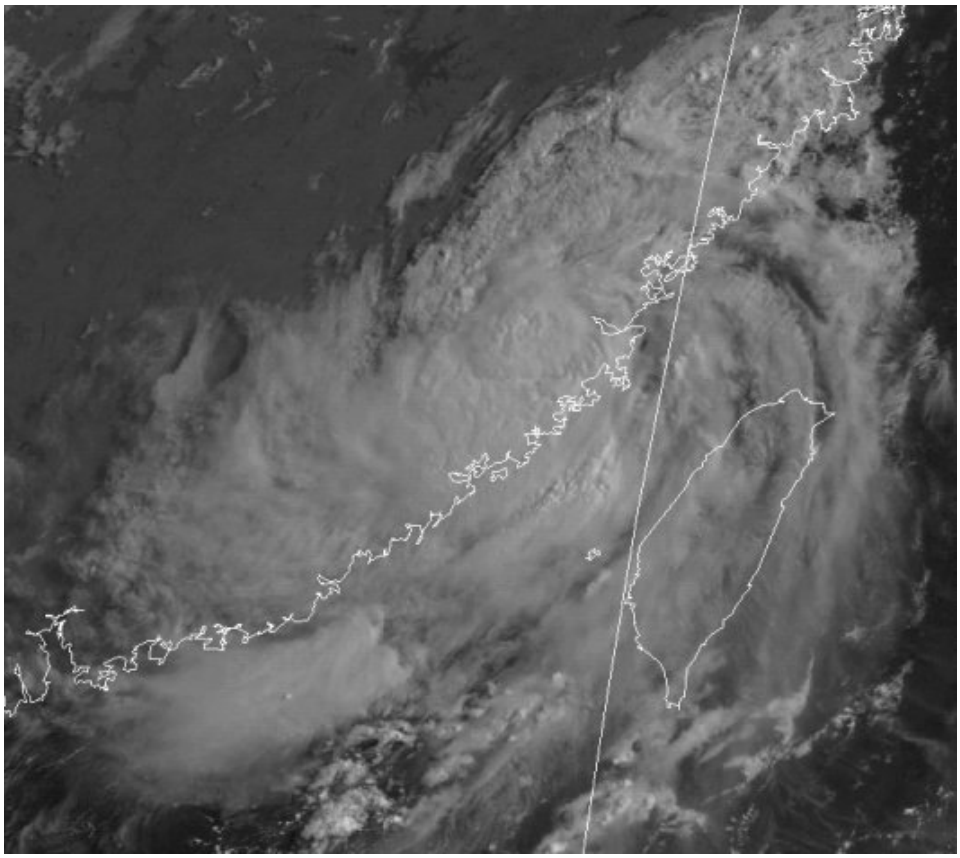
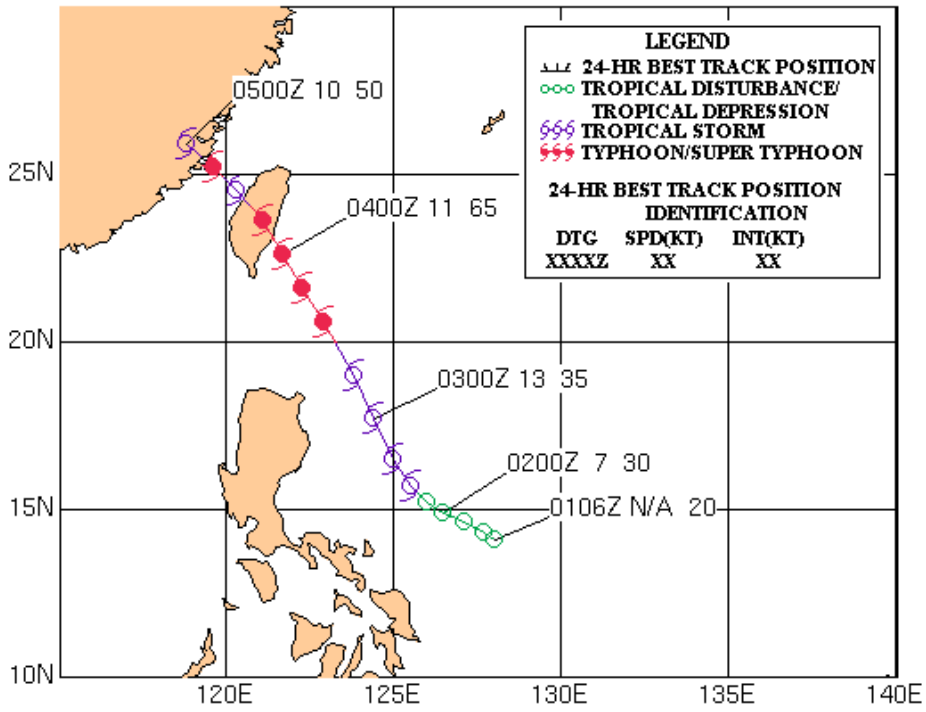


Figure 3-04-2. 050000Z August GMS-5 visible image of Typhoon Otto just after making landfall in southeastern China.


LEGEND
24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION
TROPICAL DISTURBANCE/
TROPICAL DEPRESSION
TROPICAL STORM
TYPHOON/SUPER TYPHOON
24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION
IDENTIFICATION
DTG SPD(KT) INT(KT)
XXXXZ XX XX
0500Z 10 50
0400Z 11 65
0300Z 13 35
0200Z 7 30
0106Z N/A 20
25N
20N
15N
10N
120E
125E
130E
135E
140E